

as efficient as the responsibilities and the progress of science demand? 2nd. Is it uniform throughout the provinces? and, if not, what can be done to bring all up to the level of the highest part? Gentlemen, without fear of contradiction, and with the firm belief of being able to prove what I say, I maintain that the standard of the medical profession in Canada is equal to that of any other land. Great excellence and distinction we cannot claim. The paucity of our numbers, the vast extent of territory, the exacting demands of our time, the absence of any great wealth, above all, the youth of our country and the great attractive power of our neighbors, plead powerfully in extenuation. Nevertheless, the average will compare with any. High-minded and upright, honored by his fellow-citizens, the physician acknowledges no superior. I point with confidence to the profession of this city where we are assembled, and say, "*Ex uno disce omnes.*" We will be satisfied with the example. With this our schools have much to do. They all require four years' study and all a preliminary examination of different grades of severity. We think, in fact we are sure, we have four times too many schools, yet their competition has been friendly; a generous rivalry animates them, the "*Sacra fames auri*" has not seized them; no underbidding by offering advantages to students of easy terms, rather a desire to excel, and render their course practical animates them. That this is so hear what the leading medical journal of the United States says of them:—"There is now and has been for some time a tendency towards the practical in Canadian medical teaching. While didactic lectures are given with greater care and zeal than ever, there is added that other great factor in medical education—observation. The various schools vie with each other in the practical department of the work. The anatomy is being taught by constant demonstration, the microscope is placed in the hands of every student and the test tube is as familiar as the scalpel. When we look at the careful manner in which both theoretical and practical teaching are given; at the high standard fixed by the different curricula, it must be admitted their schools are turning out a

#### VERY EFFICIENT CLASS OF PRACTITIONERS."

It is very gratifying to have such an opinion from so high an authority, and shows we need no be ashamed of "seeing ourselves as others see us. Moreover, gentlemen, a class of men are studying who, as was the case some years ago, are not com-

pelled to go to work at once, but who, thanks to industrious parents, are enabled to devote more time to professional training, who can follow the bent of their scientific inclination, and slake their thirst at the fountains of medical thought, and experiment in Europe. They find it pays. From that class, annually increasing, we expect much; they are true to their country, glad to work for it, and their reward will come. And, gentlemen, these remarks remind me that it will not be considered invidious if, in passing, I should express the profound respect and affection the profession feel for the medical schools of this city. It was a great satisfaction to all to learn the good fortune of the medical department of McGill in securing an endowment, the first in Canada to obtain one. Its teachers have been strong supporters of this society from its inception. Its managers placing their veteran professors gently to rest on a well-earned fame, have wisely selected to fill its chairs a number of young men filled with the Promethean fire, ardent, enthusiastic students; thus hope and confidence are inspired in its future. Its endowment, too, is worthy of note. It is a public recognition of the excellence of the work done and a tardy recognition of the strong claims of our medical schools on the patriotism and munificence of the country. We of the west, where so many of her alumni are pushing her fame and their fortunes, have nothing but warm congratulations to offer. We rejoice in her prosperity, and hope no narrow lines of sectional prejudice will ever prevent us offering honor to those who deserve it. The other schools, too, are doing good work, and worthy of compliment. With reference to the uniformity of medical standard, I may say I hold with many that it is

#### THE DUTY OF THE STATE

to see that men well qualified to meet the serious responsibilities of the profession shall be found in every village and hamlet throughout the land. Our profession is too intimately mixed up with the people not to require a law, and a stringent one, too, to regulate the right to practice, and, while schools award degrees and honors to the zealous, faithful student, the State alone should say who shall or shall not guard the interests of the sick, the safety of its subjects. The matter comes under the head of education, and is, therefore, a state right. Then all you require is to imitate the example of Ontario, and place the profession in the position it is in there. Those who see how ardently the pro-